

TIVERTON CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

Regular meeting minutes: January 16, 2008

1: Call to order

Chairman Cecil Leonard called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm at the Tiverton Town Hall.

Members present: Laura Epke, Frank Marshall, Ray Medeiros, Stanley Zeramby, Deb Pallasch, Diane Harris, Bob Koohy-8:20pm Absent: Richard Joslin

2: Approval of minutes

Motion made by S. Zeramby, seconded by L. Epke, to approve minutes as amended for Jan. 9, 2008. Approving motion: L. Epke, F. Marshall, S. Zeramby, D. Pallasch, D. Harris Abstain: C. Leonard, R. Medeiros. (B. Koohy not present for vote) Motion passed.

3. Receive comments from invited groups/individuals

Recycling Committee:

No one present

Municipal Court Judge:

None – Judge Nebergall appeared before Commission to ensure that prior change, which would allow appointment of an alternate, was in place in latest revision of Charter - confirmation that it was.

Probate Court Judge:

No one present

Housing Authority:

No one present

Motion made by D. Pallasch, seconded by L. Epke, to move item 6(a) – Personnel Board to next item on the agenda. Motion passed unanimously by those present. (B. Koohy not present for vote)

Personnel Board recommendation:

Mr. James Camara, Chairman, commented on proposed revisions to section 1007 of the charter. Written changes previously supplied to members via email. See handout. Commission to clarify with Town Solicitor legal implications of change #3 regarding references.

4. Public Input

None

5. Public Forum publicity

Public Forum Flyer handed out to various members for posting.

6. Preliminary Commission discussion re: input for proposed changes

- Motion by L. Epke, seconded by D. Harris, to add to working document suggested changes to section 1004 of the charter, which would more clearly define open space and acknowledge and provide legal standing for the stewardship currently done by volunteers

Voting: In Favor- D. Harris, L. Epke, S. Zeramby, R. Medeiros, C. Leonard
Against- D. Pallasch. Abstain- F. Marshall. (B. Koohy not present for vote)
Motion passed.

- Motion by L. Epke, seconded by S. Zeramby, to add to working document for purposes of discussion with Town Solicitor suggested changes to section 1210 – “Termination, Suspension and Removal from office,” which would clarify the procedure and provide an appeal process for all employees that is clearly spelled out in the charter.

Voting: In Favor- D. Harris, L. Epke, S. Zeramby, R. Medeiros, C. Leonard, D. Pallasch. Against- F. Marshall. (B. Koohy not present for vote) Motion passed.

- Motion by L. Epke to remove item #12 – “Amend the charter to transfer the regulatory power of the Wastewater management Commission to the DPW.” No second.
- Using flip charts, commission developed the pros and cons relating to the following alternatives (See separate presentation).
 1. All day referendum based on budget committee recommendation
 2. “The Portsmouth” – Town Council approves budget; all day referendum fail safe
 3. Committee with reps from each elected body approves budget; all day referendum fail safe
 4. Budget Committee approves budget; all day referendum fail safe
 5. “Grand Committee” (TC, SC, BC, Administrator, etc.) approves budget; all day referendum fail safe
 6. Town representatives- Representatives would be elected from town “zones” and vote for budget approval; all day referendum fail safe..

7. Other Business

None.

8. Adjournment

The Commission's January 16, 2008 regular meeting was adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Minutes recorded and compiled by Deborah Pallasch, Secretary.